

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-28 (Cancelled)

29. (New) A method for controlling copying of data at a recording apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting the data to be recorded onto a recording medium loaded on the recording apparatus;

converting the input data into a predetermined format which is reproducible at the recording apparatus;

generating copy permission information specifying which type of copy permission is associated with the data;

adding the copy permission information to the converted data; and

recording the converted data with the copy permission information onto the recording medium.

30. (New) The method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of reproducing the data recorded on the recording medium loaded on the recording apparatus.

31. (New) The method according to claim 29, further comprising the steps of:
reading the data recorded on the recording medium;
extracting copy permission information from the data recorded on the recording medium;
generating information for controlling copying of the data to be output in accordance with copy permission specified by the copy permission information; and

outputting the data along with the generated information for controlling copying of the data.

32. (New) The method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of transforming the data into a form which cannot be reproduced when copied onto the other recording medium.

33. (New) The method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of determining whether the input data includes information for controlling copying of the data, and wherein the copy permission information is added to the data when the input data does not include any information for controlling copying of the data.

34. (New) The method according to claim 29, further comprising the steps of:
extracting information for controlling copying of the data included in the input data; and
comparing a copy restriction level indicated by the information for controlling copying of the data included in the input data with a predetermined copy restriction level,
wherein the copy permission information is generated in accordance with the comparison of the copy restriction level and added to the data.

35. (New) The method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of determining whether copy protection of data to be recorded is instructed by a user of the recording apparatus, and wherein the copy permission information is generated and added to the data if copy protection of data to be recorded is instructed.

36. (New) The method according to claim 35, further comprising the steps of:
extracting information for controlling copying of the data included in the input data; and
comparing a copy restriction level indicated by the information for controlling copying of
the data included in the input data with a copy restriction level specified by the instruction,
wherein the copy permission information is generated in accordance with the comparison
of the copy restriction level and added to the data.

37. (New) A recording apparatus comprising:
an inputting device which inputs data to be recorded onto a recording medium loaded on
the recording apparatus;
a converting device which converts the input data into a predetermined format which is
reproducible at the recording apparatus;
a generating device which generates copy permission information specifying a type of
copy permission to associate with the data;
an adding device which adds the copy permission information to the converted data; and
a recording device which records the converted data with the copy permission
information onto the recording medium.

38. (New) The apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising a reproducing
device which reproduces the data recorded on the recording medium loaded on the recording
apparatus.

39. (New) The apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising:

a reading device which reads the data recorded on the recording medium;

an extracting device which extracts copy permission information from the data recorded on the recording medium;

an information generating device which generates information for controlling copying of the data to be output in accordance with copy permission specified by the copy permission information; and

an outputting device which outputs the data along with the generated information for controlling copying of the data.

40. (New) The apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising a transforming device which transforms the data into a form which cannot be reproduced when copied onto the other recording medium.

41. (New) The apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising a determining device which determines whether the input data includes information for controlling copying of the data, and wherein the copy permission information is added to the data when the input data does not include any information for controlling copying of the data.

42. (New) The apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising:

an extracting device which extracts information for controlling copying of the data included in the input data; and

a comparing device which compares a copy restriction level indicated by the information for controlling copying of the data included in the input data with a predetermined copy restriction level,

wherein the copy permission information is generated in accordance with the comparison of the copy restriction level and added to the data.

43. (New) The apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising a determining device which determines whether copy protection of data to be recorded is instructed by a user of the recording apparatus, and wherein the copy permission information is generated and added to the data if copy protection of data to be recorded is instructed.

44. (New) The apparatus according to claim 43, further comprising:
an extracting device which extracts information for controlling copying of the data included in the input data; and

a comparing device which compares a copy restriction level indicated by the information for controlling copying of the data included in the input data with a copy restriction level specified by the instruction,

wherein the copy permission information is generated in accordance with the comparison of the copy restriction level and added to the data.